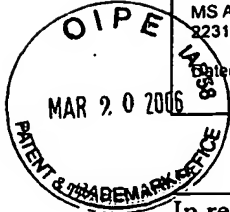


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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service with sufficient postage as First Class Mail, in an envelope addressed to: MS Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the date shown below.

Dated: March 18, 2006

Signature: Richard H. Anderson

(Richard H. Anderson)

Docket No.: 30572/40755
(PATENT)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:
Fritz Appel et al.

Application No.: 10/021,684

Confirmation No.: 9199

Filed: December 11, 2001

Art Unit: 1742

For: METHOD FOR THE TREATMENT OF
METALLIC MATERIALS

Examiner: S. Ip

AMENDMENT IN RESPONSE TO
FINAL OFFICE ACTION UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.116

MS Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

In response to the Office Action dated December 19, 2005, please amend the above-identified U.S. patent application as follows:

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 5 of this paper.

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